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Probable NE-04 SLBM-Related Construction and Activity, Severodvinsk Naval Base West, USSR (S)

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PROBABLE NE-04 SLBM-RELATED CONSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITY, SEVERODVINSK NAVAL BASE WEST, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) Since early 1975, a probable submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM) handling facility for the NE-04 missile has been under construction at Severodvinsk Naval Base West (BE USSR. 25X1

2. (S/D) Construction of this facility began between 25X1 when sheet piling and reinforcement bars were emplaced to strengthen and enlarge the quay area at reporting positions (RP) 6, 7, and 8.[1] Since 1977, concrete paving slabs have been placed on a portion of the quay and extensive dredging has been done next to the quay. 25X1

3. (TSR) Since early 1979, a large traveling gantry crane (Figure 1), similar to the missile loading crane at Sayda Guba Submarine Base , has been assembled on the quay. 25X1 The sliding arm support structures are above the quay. The 25X1 over-water reach of the crane is This crane will probably be used to remove missiles 25X1 from a transporter/erector and load them aboard submarines.

4. (S/D) On components for a rail-mounted transporter/erector were observed near the crane. By assembly of the transporter/erector components had been completed (Figure 1). The rail spur serving the facility was completed between 25X1 a load simulator was observed being carried on the transporter/erector, indicating that a simulation test was in progress. This load simulator was similar to the one seen at Nenoksa Naval Missile Test Center Launch Facility D (Figure 2), where the NE-04 SLBM is being flight tested. 25X1

5. (S/D) On an NE-04-associated 19-meter railcar was on the rail spur leading to the gantry crane (Figure 1). A similar railcar has been seen at construction hall 3 at Severodvinsk Shipyard 402 , where the Typhoon nuclear powered fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) is under construction, and at Nenoksa Naval Missile Test Center Launch Facility D. By the railcar had been positioned in tandem with the transporter/erector. On procedures for transferring a missile from the railcar to the transporter/erector were being tested. The gantry crane was over the railcar and transporter/erector, and a probable missile handling collar was upright on the transporter/erector.

6. (TSR) The techniques for handling the NE-04 appear similar to those used for handling and loading the SS-NX-17, also a solid fuel missile (Figure 3). Once the NE-04 has been transferred from the railcar to the transporter/erector, it will apparently be erected and then picked up by the crane, positioned over the submarine and loaded into the tubes. The SS-NX-17 missile transporter has an erecting mechanism similar to that on the transporter/erector seen on the rail spur here.

7. (S/D) The presence of the NE-04-associated equipment, the new gantry crane, and the quay improvements all suggest that this facility will be used for NE-04 support for the Typhoon SSBN. However, this facility could be used to support other platforms and systems.

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1. DIA. NDA-06/5049/78, NBRG, *USSR Severodvinsk Naval Base West,* May 79 (SECRET/WNINTEL)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] 25X1 25X1

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